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Press Release

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Berlin Receives Prestigious Sustainable Maryland Certified Award at Maryland Municipal League Conference

College Park, MD (October 29, 2015) – The Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland announced that **The Town of Berlin** was one of twelve Maryland municipalities honored at the **Sustainable Maryland Awards Ceremony** at the Maryland Municipal League's annual Fall Conference held in Cambridge this week.

Berlin was the very first Maryland municipality to become Sustainable Maryland Certified when the program launched in 2012, and successfully became re-certified again this year.

A detailed summary of Berlin's sustainability Actions can be found in their Certification Report, attached as a PDF.

Highlights of Berlin's accomplishments include:

- **Home to a Maryland Green School: Berlin Intermediate School**
- **Installed a 7 kilowatt wind turbine on town property, generating clean renewable energy**
- **Provides Free Wi-Fi Connection to residents and visitors to the downtown**
- **Established a stormwater utility fee to fund stormwater infrastructure improvements**
- **Enacted a Residential Poultry Raising Policy to help foster local food production**
- **Hosts an annual Peach Festival that highlights local food and heritage of the region**
- **Provides a Workplace Wellness program for employees, offering Yoga, Blood Pressure Screening, Flu Vaccines, Drug Screening and Exercise programs**
- **Hosts 2nd Friday Art Strolls as part of a Buy Local campaign to bolster the local economy**
- **Developed the Walkable-Bikeable Berlin/Assateague Gateway Corridor Trail project in partnership with the Lower Shore Land Trust, an initiative to plan and develop a network of walking and biking trails within the town and connecting the town with nearby amenities.**

“The citizens of the Town of Berlin recognize that in the 21st century, environmental stewardship and economic development are equally important sides of the same coin for any community that is going to

develop a vibrant, diverse and sustainable quality of life for multiple generations,” said **Berlin Mayor Wm Gee Williams**. “For the past several years, a major goal of Berlin has been to engage an ever-widening number of citizens, businesses and organizations in environmentally responsible stewardship activities. Berlin’s approach is to teach, not preach and show by example the tangible, positive results of sharing the results of rising expectations brought about by the enhancement of our natural environment in every neighborhood through citizen cooperation and collaboration.”

“We are excited to welcome more municipalities to the growing Sustainable Maryland community,” said **Dan Nees, director of the Environmental Finance Center**. “This program is a hallmark of our work at the Environmental Finance Center, guiding communities towards healthier, more sustainable futures. Each certification award represents the commitment of local elected officials, municipal staff and Green Team volunteers in these towns and cities to create a stronger, more resilient Maryland.”

The attached photo shows (from left to right) Lisa Hall, Councilmember; Jane Kreiter, Public Works and Water Resources Director; Carolyn Duffy, Permits Coordinator; Hon. Gee Williams, III – Mayor; Laura Allen, Town Administrator; Jeff Fleetwood, Managing Director; Ivy Wells, Economic and Community Development Director; Dave Engelhart, Planning Director with the Sustainable Maryland Certified award at the Maryland Municipal League conference this week.

Also attached is Berlin’s Sustainable Maryland Certified logo.

For detailed information about Berlin’s sustainability initiatives, please contact Jeff Fleetwood, Managing Director, at (410) 641-4002 or jfleetwood@berlinmd.gov

Sustainable Maryland Certification: To achieve certification, municipalities are required to form a Green Team comprised of local residents, community leaders, municipal staff and officials; complete a variety sustainability-related Actions worth **a total of at least 150 points** (including two mandatory actions and two of six priority actions), and submit the appropriate documentation as evidence that the Sustainable Maryland Certified requirements have been satisfied. The Sustainable Maryland Action Menu can be seen here: <http://sustainablemaryland.com/actions-certification/actions/>

The complete list of 2015 newly certified and re-certified (denoted by *) communities includes:

***Town of Berlin** (Worcester County; **the very first municipality to be certified in the program in 2012, re-certified in 2015**)

City of Brunswick (Frederick County)

City of Cambridge (first municipality certified in Dorchester County)

Town of Centreville (first municipality certified in Queen Anne’s County)

***Town of Chestertown** (Kent County; first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015)

Town of Easton (first municipality certified in Talbot County)

Town of Emmitsburg (Frederick County)

City of Hagerstown (Washington County)

City of Laurel (Prince George’s County)

***City of Mount Rainer** (Prince George's County; first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015)

Town of Poolesville (Montgomery County)

***City of Rockville** (Montgomery County; first certified in 2012, re-certified in 2015)

According to **Mike Hunninghake, Program Manager for Sustainable Maryland**, "The annual Sustainable Maryland Certified awards are a testament to the passion and dedication of volunteers, municipal staff and elected officials on our Green Teams, and the innovative projects and plans they have completed towards improving the quality of life in their communities and reducing our collective footprint on the planet. This year, we are especially pleased by the successful re-certification of the first four Sustainable Maryland Certified municipalities from 2012, which speaks volumes about both the value communities place on our certification designation, and the sustainability of the municipal Green Team/Action Plan framework we have created here in Maryland."

Sustainable Maryland Certified Municipalities as of 2015 (4th full year of the program):

- Number of Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Certified: **30 (19% of Maryland's municipalities)**
- Number of Municipalities Sustainable Maryland Registered: **58 (37% of Maryland's municipalities)**

About Sustainable Maryland: Sustainable Maryland is an initiative of the **Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland** that is designed to support Maryland's 157 municipalities as they look for cost-effective and strategic ways to protect their natural assets and revitalize their communities. Using best practices in resource areas like water, energy, planning, health, food, and economy, a municipality can earn points toward sustainability certification.

Sustainable Maryland offers a customizable menu of concrete actions, allowing communities to select initiatives that best fit their specific needs. This free and voluntary program, with the support of the **Maryland Municipal League, US Environmental Protection Agency, and the Town Creek Foundation**, helps communities choose a direction for their greening efforts; complete their chosen actions with help from program tools, trainings, expert guidance, and other resources; and be recognized statewide for their accomplishments.

For more information about Sustainable Maryland: www.sustainablemaryland.com



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